

IN THE MATTER OF THE	*	BEFORE THE ALCOHOLIC
APPLICATION OF SHIVIKA GAIND	*	
AND DURGESH GUPTA ON BEHALF	*	BEVERAGE HEARING BOARD
OF DG STORES, LLC T/A DORSEY	*	
SEARCH WINE & SPIRITS FOR A	*	FOR
TRANSFER OF A CLASS A BEER,	*	
WINE AND LIQUOR 7-DAY OFF	*	HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
SALE LICENSE	*	
	*	Case No.: 25-16
	*	

DECISION AND ORDER

The Board of License Commissioners for Howard County, Maryland (the “Liquor Board”), pursuant to Rule 1.02(A) of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, has delegated the authority to hear and decide cases to the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board for Howard County, Maryland (the “Hearing Board”).

On July 8, 2025, the Hearing Board heard the application of Shivika Gaind and Durgesh Gupta (the “Applicants”), on behalf of DG Stores, LLC t/a Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits (“Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits”), for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off-sale License for a 2,500 square foot package store located at 4725 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite J, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

The hearing was properly advertised, and the property posted pursuant to the Alcoholic Beverages Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The Applicant was represented by Ben Carter, Esquire and there were no protestants who appeared in opposition to the application.

All the documents on file were incorporated into the record by reference.

PROFFER

Mr. Carter proffered that Mr. Gupta will be at the business 25 to 30 hours a week, and that

Ms. Gaind will be at the store on occasion. Mr. Carter stated that Mr. Gupta is an experienced liquor store operator, and that he owned a store in Prince George's County from 2018 to 2023. Mr. Carter stated that Mr. Gupta also managed a truck stop in Oklahoma City that sold beer and wine, and that he has never had any alcohol-related violations. Mr. Carter stated that the applicants do not plan to change the business operations, but that they would like to close for a few days to make renovations. Mr. Carter stated that they plan to retain the current employee and also hire new employees, as the liquor store is understaffed. Mr. Carter stated that both applicants are Alcohol Awareness Certified and that any new employees will be Alcohol Awareness Certified.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Durgesh Gupta, 90% interest holder and proposed licensee, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Mr. Gupta stated that the application he submitted is correct, and that he has previous alcohol-related experience working at Southern Avenue Liquors as a licensee in Prince George's County, as well as managing a truck stop in Oklahoma. Mr. Gupta stated that he plans to hire 2 to 3 employees, and that he is Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Gupta stated that he has not been convicted of any felonies or alcohol-related violations, and that the hours of operation are 7 days a week from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Mr. Gupta stated that he plans to hire a full-time supervisor and that all staff will be Alcohol Awareness Certified. Mr. Gupta stated that while he lives in Virginia, he will not have difficulty working on-site at the liquor store 2 to 3 days a week.

Shivika Gaind, 10% interest holder and proposed resident agent, was sworn in and testified before the Hearing Board.

Ms. Gaind stated that she has alcohol-related experience working at liquor stores because her family is in the business. Ms. Gaind stated that she is Alcohol Awareness Certified, that she

has never previously held a liquor license, and that she has not been convicted of any felonies or alcohol-related violations. Ms. Gaind stated that she has no financial interest in any of her family's liquor stores.

Pursuant to Rule 6.13 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations, the Applicants waived their right to request the Liquor Board to hear the case.

Based on the evidence presented at the hearing, the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Hearing Board finds that Shivika Gaind and Durgesh Gupta (the "Applicants"), on behalf of DG Stores, LLC t/a Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits ("Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits"), have applied for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off-sale License for a 2,500 square foot package store located at 4725 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite J, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

2. The Hearing Board finds that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board finds that Shivika Gaind, the resident agent applicant, meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

4. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board finds that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Hearing Board concludes that Shivika Gaind and Durgesh Gupta (the

“Applicants”), on behalf of DG Stores, LLC t/a Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits (“Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits”), have applied for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off-sale License for a 2,500 square foot package store located at 4725 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite J, Ellicott City, MD 21042.

2. The Hearing Board concludes that the Applicants are fit and proper persons to hold an alcoholic beverage license.

3. The Hearing Board concludes that Shivika Gaind, the resident agent applicant, meets the requirements of Rules 1.10(S), 1.10(T), and 2.06 of the Liquor Board Rules and Regulations concerning resident agent qualifications.

4. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application is necessary for the accommodation of the public.

5. The Hearing Board concludes that the granting of the application will not unduly disturb the peace and safety of the residents of the neighborhood.

ORDER

For the foregoing reasons, it is this 4th day of August, 2025, by the Alcoholic Beverage Hearing Board of Howard County **ORDERED** that the application of Shivika Gaind and Durgesh Gupta (the “Applicants”), on behalf of DG Stores, LLC t/a Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits (“Dorsey Search Wine & Spirits”), for a transfer of a Class A Beer, Wine, and Liquor, 7-Day off-sale License for a 2,500 square foot package store located at 4725 Dorsey Hall Drive, Suite J, Ellicott City, MD 21042, be and the same is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That the Applicants comply with all State and County laws and regulations;
- (b) That the Applicants satisfy any requirements necessary to obtain the license by January

8, 2026, unless that deadline is extended by the Hearing Board upon good cause shown;
and

(c) Failure to comply with these conditions shall render this Proposed Decision and Order
null and void.

ATTEST:

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE HEARING
BOARD OF HOWARD COUNTY,
MARYLAND**

Kel Berg
Kel Berg
Board Administrator

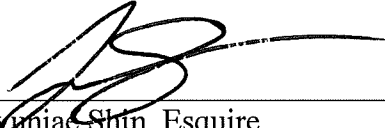
ABSENT
Steven Chen, Chairperson

/S/
Steve Hunt, Vice-Chairperson

**REVIEWED BY HOWARD COUNTY
OFFICE OF LAW
GARY W. KUC
COUNTY SOLICITOR**

/S/
Ed Coleman, Member

ABSENT
Beth Johnson, Member


Hyunjae Shin, Esquire
Senior Assistant County Solicitor

/S/
Claire Kim, Member